

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2014

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

Members present: Ira Berkowitz, Michelle Harris, Jane Klamer, David LaGesse, Jeanne Most and Becky Patel

Absent: Cynthia Garnholz, Darryl Higuchi, Eric Schneider, Mark Stapleton and Melanie Tamsky

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker, Dan Krewson and Denise Ucinski.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July meeting were approved as submitted.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Mr. LaGesse, newest member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, gave the following introduction about himself: he has been a Clayton resident for twelve years, lives in Davis Place, has two children who attend Clayton schools and is very interested in parks and recreation.

Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay

Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that revisions have been made to the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay but it has not been approved; the plan is currently shown as a draft on the city's website. During the election the plan was set aside so there was no confusion when discussing Shaw Park Square. The Parks & Recreation Commission had endorsed the three priority projects, but the remainder of the plan needed further refinement based upon discussion with the commission in the fall. Those changes have been made and are now incorporated into the plan. Ms. DeForrest will place this topic on the agenda in October and Denise will be contacting you to see what form you would like to review the plan in – printed or online.

During the CCF feasibility study it was confirmed that there is a donor who is still interested in fully developing the north hill entrance to Shaw Park. If this is confirmed, the project could be funded soon and we will need to begin working on final design documents. Also during that study, Clayton residents living across the street from Clayton High School have expressed interest in improving the circle area in front of the school. This would take coordination between the city and school district as the property is jointly owned. Ms. DeForrest also indicated that there was support for small projects that could be family legacies. These could include landscaped areas with benches and drinking fountain and/or improvements to picnic pads in Shaw Park.

A small group has been meeting to discuss options for the future of the Ice Rink. They are developing a document that will help to identify costs and potential usage of the different options. The next community survey which would be held in late 2015 could include questions related to the options. The rink will open as scheduled this season while the BOA continues to study this topic.

Director's Report

MSD Projects

In early July, MSD held a public meeting with twenty residents from the area near Oak Knoll Park; they were shown what is being proposed to be built to manage the stormwater issues around the park. Residents were not in favor of an entrance from Ridgemoor; they felt it was preferable for access to be from Big Bend through the parking lot. Otherwise, they were supportive of the project. As a result, MSD is re-designing the plans to move the entrance drive to Big Bend. The new plan will be re-submitted to the Public Works department in Late September; the storm water improvement project is slated to begin in early 2015.

Next up for the Commission, a group from MSD will be at the November Commission meeting to talk about the MSD plans for Anderson Park. Ms. DeForrest explained that MSD is planning to build an underground tunnel in St. Louis to handle stormwater runoff which will run from Anderson Park to River Des Peres. This process will create a separate storm water and sanitation system. More information will be presented at the November meeting.

Taylor Park

The playground at Taylor Park is the next playground in our system scheduled for replacement. Ms. DeForrest will attend an upcoming neighborhood meeting in Old Towne. She is planning to form a focus group to help get feedback on the playground and discuss other potential improvements to the park; she would like to have a few commission members as part of the group. The plan will be to design the playground and apply for a grant in 2015.

Project Update: Ball fields #3 and #4 opened in early August. This season there are over two thousand soccer players in our leagues and three hundred volleyball players. The Athletic Department had to turn away sixteen soccer teams. Wydown Field is open and the City is able to use it for soccer practices and games.

The Shaw Park Aquatic Center will be open through Saturday, September 13 for lap swimming. The Tennis Center is open on weekends. Hanley House is open on weekends through the end of October.

The BOA approved the expansion of Clayton Early Childcare Center's playground. The childcare center will have exclusive use of the playground per the contract. Ms. DeForrest said the city is negotiating a new contract with a tenant at #2 Oak Knoll; the Artist Guild will be vacating the building in December.

Old Business / New Business:

Ms. Klammer asked why the Shaw Park Aquatic Center and the Leisure Pool were closed on the Friday before Labor Day. Ms. DeForrest said it was due to how the end of the season schedule was created and the pool cleaning at The Center. It has been this way for the past five years. Residents and pass holders had access to the Maplewood Aquatic Center during the closure. She will talk to staff about making sure that one of the pools is open next year.

Ms. Klammer inquired about youth sports league registration on behalf of the Clayton School Board. It was noted that many participants are signing up as a team but individual registration is still available. The Athletic Department advertises to the school district and plans to emphasize individual registration next season.

Mr. Berkowitz asked how well rentals are going now that the Enterprise Holdings Pavilion is open. Ms. Ucinski said rentals are going well, the pavilion has been rented often throughout the season for many events, including weddings, receptions, birthday parties and corporate events.

The Commission had a brief discussion about what can be done to educate the community about how well the Parks and Recreation Department staff runs their facilities. Mr. Berkowitz received negative feedback from some residents during the campaign and wants to change how some people perceive parks and recreation operations. Ms. DeForrest pointed out the fact that on the community survey, the Parks and Recreation Department received a ninety-five percent approval rate. Staff will explore way to ensure that the good work they are doing is being made known to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski